

T.N.C.C. EXECUTIVE ASSAILS C.W.C. RESOLUTION

Indiscipline in Party Deplored

By A Staff Reporter

MADRAS, Oct. 12.

THE accentuated "power-struggle" that has been raging between the Prime Minister's camp and the followers of the Syndicate within the AICC found its echo today in an official resolution of the TNCC executive which put the Congress High Command on the dock for "not instituting an inquiry into the causes that led to the defeat of the party nominee" in the recent Presidential election.

The resolution approved by the outgoing executive committee, pointed out that the "unity resolution" adopted by the Congress Working Committee on Aug. 25 last, though welcome "has been disappointing".

The resolution took note of the antithetical attitude of some party members against the official nominee in the Presidential election and regretted that the Working Committee had preferred to sidetrack the issue of discipline.

Apart from this major resolution, which obviously sought to highlight the confrontation between the two groups in the AICC no motion appears to have been slated for discussion in regard to the general political situation vis-a-vis the organisation either at the national or at the State level. The absence of such a resolution was pinpointed by one of the speakers in the morning session today, who complained that "the political situation in the State" and the "dictatorial trends" adopted by the ruling DMK had not come up for discussion.

The TNCC was more directly concerned with the political situation and developments in the State and reasonably enough, this should have come up for a full-dressed discussion, according to this speaker.

Privy Purses

Other resolutions adopted by the TNCC this morning included a demand for the abolition of the privy purses and for follow-up action to the nationalisation of banks.

Observers believed that the TNCC leadership wanted to spotlight the imperative need to maintain "discipline" and to stress that "unity without discipline" would cause severe damage to the organisation and undermine its strength and influence. It was this anxiety that seemed to have induced the leadership to officially come up with a resolution touching on the Aug. 25 resolution of the Working Committee.

The resolution is also, in a way, an answer to the critics who have

been complaining that the "unity resolution" is being observed faithfully. Mrs. Indira Gandhi's supporters have been complaining that "a concerted attempt is being made to flout the unity resolution" and the Tamilnadu Congress Committee, through this resolution, has answered back saying that "unity without discipline" amounts to precious little.

Winding up the first day's discussion, Mr. Kamaraj indicated that he regarded discipline in the party as of primary importance. He was reported to have stated that by actions which were tan-

been complaining that the "unity resolution" is being observed faithfully. Mrs. Indira Gandhi's supporters have been complaining that "a concerted attempt is being made to flout the unity resolution" and the Tamilnadu Congress Committee, through this resolution, has answered back saying that "unity without discipline" amounts to precious little.

Mr. Kamaraj himself was feeling that the "unity resolution" was being exploited by a section of the leadership in season and out, and that "unity" and "discipline" were complementary to each other. He was stated to be unhappy that "some stray elements in the TNCC" should also adopt this "negative and meaningless" approach. The resolution, drafted by the outgoing working committee, obviously has the approval of Mr. Kamaraj, who, it is reported, would like to see that at least the TNCC does not give the go-by to "discipline".

According to observers, the TNCC meeting, was to have discussed organisational affairs in the context of the "unity resolution", but with the changed situa-

tion of faith and confidence in Mr. Kamaraj by the TNCC would contribute to the tilting of the balance in the AICC remains to be seen.

Observers also noted with interest the resolution demanding vigorous follow-up action to nationalisation of banks and the abolition of privy purses.

The two resolutions are seen as an answer to the critics of Mr. Kamaraj, who has been "unkindly bracketed with so-called Syndicate." Mr. Kamaraj has always been a grassroots socialist and no one has been more vocal than he in demanding the nationalisation of banks, abolition of privileges to the princes and other socialistic steps.

The TNCC resolutions are thus an attempt to vindicate Mr. Kamaraj, and restore to him the image of a "true socialist."

The anti-Kamaraj group and other neutral elements, which tried to raise an "academic discussion" on the resignation of Mr. Subramaniam were obviously not able to register any impact at the meeting and the two-day session of the TNCC, did no more than protect the personality of Mr. Kamaraj as the Supreme leader of the TNCC.

To what extent the reiteration

TNCC CALL

Take over all banks, end privy purses

From Our Madras Bureau

MADRAS, October 12.

The Tamil Nadu Congress committee today took a radical economic stance by passing an omnibus resolution calling for the nationalisation of all banks, including the foreign banks, speedy implementation of the 10-point programme and immediate abolition of privy purses. The committee at its open session today "warmly welcomed" the nationalisation of 14 major banks in pursuance of the AICC decision that a socialist society could be built only on the basis of the 10-point programme.

The committee, however, urged that the entire banking industry including the foreign banks and the smaller banks, should be nationalised.

The TNCC also called for speedy and effective follow-up measures which would ensure that the benefits of nationalisation flowed to the weaker sections of society, in particular to the workers, small agriculturists and small entrepreneurs.

It asked the Union Government to "forthwith" abolish the privy purses and special privileges of ex-rulers "without waiting for further negotiations."

The committee urged that all other steps necessary to usher in a socialist society should be undertaken "without further delay."

The resolution received all-round support. Among the most vociferous supporters of the resolution were many who in their broadsides against the Prime Minister during yesterday's in camera meeting had ridiculed the importance of bank nationalisation.

The resolution, which was moved by Mr. R. V. Swaminathan, who was till recently acting president and adopted unanimously, incorporated amendments proposed by two members to include a demand for the nationalisation of other banks, including foreign ones and to call for the immediate abolition of privy purses.

The original resolution had said that the special privileges of princes should be immediately withdrawn though there might be delay in the abolition of privy purses on account of talks between them and the Government.

Another resolution, moved by the president and adopted by the general body this morning, extended a hearty welcome to the Frontier Gandhi to the country and expressed the hope that his visit would greatly help in "realising the dreams of Gandhiji."

Mr. P. Kakkai, new president of the TNCC, presided over the meeting.

Among those present on the dais, were Mr. K. Kamaraj, MP and former Congress President, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, former Union Fin-

ance Minister and Mr. C. Subramaniam, whose resignation from the TNCC presidency was accepted yesterday.

All the members, who spoke on the resolution, stressed the need for taking appropriate follow-up action to ensure that the object of bank nationalisation did not go waste. Mr. K. M. Subramaniam, a member of the PCC, called for a change in the policy of the Planning Commission following the bank nationalisation.

Some members wanted the leadership to chalk out a positive programme of action, even agitation, to fight the "evils of DMK rule" in Tamil Nadu.

He blamed the Congress leadership for not enthusing the workers though they were willing to make any sacrifice to fight the DMK.

Cheaper credit

New Delhi: After what appears to be an attempt to put bank nationalisation on a low key, policy-makers in the Government and the Reserve Bank are now settling down to sort out administrative and procedural difficulties in channelising credit to specified sectors.

The Reserve Bank has set up a

working group to identify precisely the administrative difficulties in the way of rapid expansion of bank credit to the sectors which have been allotted priority in the disbursement of credit under the new policy. The objective is to make credit cheap and readily available.

High rates of stamp duty is deemed to be one of the reasons which makes credit costly and comes in the way of its utilisation. To what extent rates can be lowered without unduly affecting Government's revenue will have to be examined.

It is felt that credit expansion will be expedited if the facility of accepting title deeds for advancing loans is extended by commercial banks to smaller towns also. At present this facility, which results in the saving of time and money, is available only in big cities. For extending the facility it will be necessary to amend the existing legislation.

Further, the provision in some States that in a dispute a court can fix the maximum rate of interest at 6-1/4 per cent., is clearly unrealistic today. Commercial banks cannot lend at this rate of interest and they would find themselves in an impossible situation if a borrower took a

dispute to a part of law. This provision will also have to be amended.

Bank nationalisation has brought better receipts for the State Governments through public borrowings. It is estimated that higher receipts for public loans plus accruals as a result of the Fifth Finance Commission's award will mean additional funds to the extent of Rs. 60 crores to Rs. 70 crores in the hands of the State Governments.

The Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers expressing the hope that it will be possible for them to enlarge their annual plans.

With the backing of the nationalised banks even less advanced States have this year found it easy to get full subscriptions to their loans. While States like Maharashtra, Madras and Gujarat would have done well even without nationalisation, the relatively backward States now find it equally easy to get full subscription to their loans.

Moreover, it has been observed that to a certain extent institutional backing to loans is being replaced by individual or company subscriptions, which means that genuine savings are going up.

One reason why the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank want to operate the credit policy with a measure of flexibility is that the nationalised banks have large surplus funds. The Government does not want to commit itself to too rigid an order of priorities.

The availability of surpluses with the nationalised banks has opened up the possibility of the Government borrowing from them to make up part of the budgetary deficit. This has also the implication that even the Central plan can be enlarged with a step-up in the public sector investment.

PTI adds: In a joint statement, Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Krishan Kant, MPs, said today it is imperative that the AICC should make an assessment of the "developing situation" and decide upon "a time-bound programme of action" for implementing the economic resolutions adopted at Bangalore.

TTK optimistic

From Our Madras Bureau

MADRAS, October 12.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari who made a dramatic offer yesterday to mediate between the rival groups in the Congress feels rapprochement is still possible.

In an informal chat with newsmen today, he said the differences among the top leaders were "not so vital" as to be pushed to the "point of no return".

He emphasised that the "long-range duelling" between the two camps should stop if a right atmosphere for reconciliation was to be created. On the issue of presidential

election the two sides had pushed each other to a corner, he added.

Mr. Krishnamachari said the present leadership of the Congress should take a lesson from the late Jawaharlal Nehru who never allowed his differences—there were many—with his colleagues to be carried to the point of no return.

Mr. Krishnamachari, who is a close friend of Mr. Kamaraj, wondered if his mediation offer would be taken seriously by the warring groups. If his offer was accepted, he would be prepared to do his bit to restore unity, he said.

COMPROMISE MOVE

From Our Madras Bureau

MADRAS, October 12.

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee today passed a compromise resolution on the current crisis in the Party.

In a resolution, adopted at its open session today, the Committee expressed its "great distress" over the defeat of Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, the Party's official candidate in the presidential poll. It welcomed the "Unity Resolution", adopted by the Congress Working Committee on August 25 and requested both the Working Committee and the leaders to ensure that the crisis, caused by the events since July last, was not repeated.

As a sop to the anti-Indira extremists in the Tamil Nadu Congress, the Committee accepted an amendment moved by Mrs. Lakshmi Krishnamurthy, daughter of the late Mr. S. Satyamurthy, the "political guru" of Mr. Kamaraj. The amendment said: "Discipline is essential for the growth of the Party. It must be enforced without fear or favour."

Mr. T. S. Arunachalam, a close associate of Mr. Kamaraj, moved an amendment expressing the Commit-

tee's "hopeful expectation" that discipline would be enforced strictly and that the Working Committee would provide a lead by establishing unity on the basis of discipline and thus pave way for the "healthy growth" of the Congress Party. The amendment was withdrawn at Mr. Kamaraj's request.

An earlier draft circulated to the members, while welcoming the "Unity Resolution" of the Working Committee also expressed disappointment over the "failure" of the Working Committee to investigate the causes for Mr. Sanjiva Reddy's defeat. The resolution was toned down at the instance of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari among others.

The resolution as it finally emerged was an anti-climax to the thundering denunciation of Mrs. Gandhi and her supporters by a majority of the speakers during the yesterday's closed-door session. Mr. Kamaraj himself is understood to have made a scathing attack on the Prime Minister, though according to a senior Congress leader, his speech was a "sober one" compared to the "more virulent" ones made by others.

According to a senior Congress-

man, who was present at yesterday's meeting, it was quite "uncharacteristic" of Mr. Kamaraj to have joined in the applause whenever anti-Indira references were made.

It is learnt that most of the speeches sounded as if they were "custom-made". The Prime Minister was not spared of even personal attacks. When a lady member protested against the "abusive language" of a speaker, Mr. Kamaraj is believed to have brushed aside her objection by saying: "You have no right to interrupt him. You can have your say when your turn comes".

In refreshing contrast to the hate-filled speeches of the extremists, the veteran labour leader, Mr. S. C. C. Anthony Pillai is believed to have made a forthright speech giving a proper direction to the discussion. He bluntly told the members that they were not there to express loyalty to Mr. Kamaraj. As congressmen, it was their duty to extend their unqualified support to the progressive policies of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Kamaraj is reported to have devoted a major part of his speech to answering the points raised by Mr. Pillai. It was Mrs. Gandhi, according to him, who was responsible for violating the spirit of the "Unity Re-

solution". In her cross-country tour, she was making it a point to denigrate her critics in the Congress High Command. "Have we no right of reply?", Mr. Kamaraj asked.

UNI adds: Mr. Kamaraj warned "those in Delhi" against counting on the support of Opposition parties, particularly the CPI, for the survival of the Congress. He said that the Communist support for the Congress and identifying "some Congressmen" as "progressive" would only spell the ruin of the Congress Party.

Mr. Kamaraj alleged that the CPI was trying to "topple" the Marxist-led United Front in Kerala. "What they were trying in Kerala, they would repeat in West Bengal in another three months. When they can topple a ministry, led by their fraternal party, how long will take for them to topple the Congress Government whom they have befriended overnight," Mr. Kamaraj asked.

He said that any truck with the CPI would only weaken the Congress Party. "If Congress has to depend on the support of Opposition parties for its survival, then you can even wind up the organisation", he added.

21/12

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
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Subramaniam issue to CWC

NEW DELHI, October 12.

The issue of Mr. Subramaniam's continuance as member of the Congress Working Committee is being remitted to the Working Committee itself for a decision.

It is understood that the Congress President, Mr. S. Nijalingappa, is not likely to take any further initiative to resolve the constitutional anomaly on this issue.

At the direction of the Congress President, therefore, Mr. Subramaniam has been invited for the Working Committee meeting on October 30.

The Working Committee will decide the date and venue of the next session of the All-India Congress Committee.

Though Mrs. Gandhi's supporters seem to favour an immediate summoning of the AICC session and in Delhi, indications are that the syndicate leaders would press for holding the session outside. They may also like to have the session only in late December after the forthcoming session of Parliament is over.

Meanwhile, Mr. Banarsi Das, one of the general secretaries of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee called on the Congress President, Mr. S. Nijalingappa, here today.

Mr. Banarsi Das is reported to have discussed the election of a new UPCC president in place of Mr. Karalapati Tripathi.—UNI.

Young Turks lash out at 'section of leadership'

"The Times of India" News Service

NEW DELHI, October 12.

TWO Young Turks, Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Krishan Kant, in a joint statement today deplored the party leadership's futile exercise in polemics instead of initiating national debate on basic issues and steps to take the country forward.

The energies of the leadership were being directed towards "vindictive action, political manoeuvrings and technical manipulations of the party constitution for gaining a point in the struggle to keep a hold on the organisational machinery." The Congress president might be justified in taking certain action in regard to the status of a member of the Working Committee in the changed situation, but the AICC had hardly devoted any time or energy to initiate follow-up action for making the recent economic steps meaningful.

NATIONAL DEBATE

No attempt had been made to raise a national debate on how to use the nationalised banks as instruments of social and economic change, how to build up a cadre for these and other public institutions and how to mobilise larger resources for an enlarged Plan.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Mr. Krishan Kant said: "The cry of upholding party discipline cannot convince anybody if even notice is not taken of flagrant violations of party decisions and the denunciation of the policies adopted." Mr. S. K. Patil had "lashed out at the Government for banning company donations to political parties. Such persons have ridiculed the Government on nationalisation and all other progressive programmes and yet they are allowed to continue to hold positions of strategy and power."

According to the Young Turks, a section of the leadership had outlived its utility. "They cannot be pioneers of social change in today's circumstances and the sooner they give way to emerging forces, the better they will be serving the cause of democracy and socialism. Any attempt to retain the hold on the organisation against the wishes of the rank and file is bound to create tension in the party."

"It was, therefore, imperative that the AICC should make an assessment of the developing situation and decide upon a time-bound concrete programme of action for implementing the economic resolution adopted at Bangalore."

Plot to overthrow

P. M. alleged

"The Times of India" News Service

JULLUNDUR, October 12: Mr. I. K. Gujral, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, alleged here today that the steps taken by the Congress High Command against the presidents of the PCCs of U.P. and Andhra Pradesh were part of a "conspiracy" to overthrow Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

He charged the Prime Minister's opponents with having engineered communal disturbances in some places to bring about her downfall.

Mr. Gujral, who was inaugurating the first meeting of the newly-formed Congress Democratic Socialist Front, said the tussle in the Congress was between those who wanted to implement a progressive economic and political programme and those who wanted to prevent their implementation.

Referring to the nationalisation of

banks, he said more such steps would be initiated to improve the lot of the people.

The Minister said the Government would not hesitate to take steps at "the proper moment" to end monopoly in the newspaper industry.

Mr. Gujral said one of the reasons why various socio-economic reforms had not had the desired impact was that their implementation was left solely in the hands of the bureaucracy. The Government was, therefore, keen on associating the people with the implementation of such measures.

TTK hits out at 'war of letters'

"The Times of India" News Service

MADRAS, October 12: Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari today blamed "long-range duelling"—the war of letters—for much of the "misunderstanding" between the two groups in the national leadership of the Congress.

The former Union Finance Minister told newsmen after this morning's session of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee that the differences between the feuding groups were not too wide to bridge.

There was no need to push an adversary to a point of no return. It was wrong of the Congress Parliamentary Board to have pushed Mrs. Indira Gandhi too far in selecting a presidential candidate not acceptable to her. It was equally incorrect on her part to have driven the other side into a corner, he added.

'Expel Nijalingappa' demand

ALLAHABAD, October 12: Nearly 100 local Congress and Youth Congress workers have demanded the removal of the Congress president, Mr. Nijalingappa. Mr. Atulya Ghosh, Mr. S. K. Patil and Mr. C. B. Gupta from the party after an urgent plenary session of the All-India Congress Committee.

They also resolved at a meeting here today to stage a black-flag demonstration against the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. C. B. Gupta during his visit to the city later this month if notices against Mr. Subramaniam and two other leaders were not withdrawn by then.—U.N.I.

Dhulup's charge against Chavan

KOLHAPUR, October 12: The leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly, Mr. K. N. Dhulap, has charged the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee and Mr. Y. B. Chavan Union Home Minister, with playing power politics.

Addressing a public meeting here last night Mr. Dhulap said the M.P.C.C. and Mr. Chavan had supported the "syndicate" candidate in the Presidential election, but changed their stand and supported the Prime Minister's "progressive programmes" when Mr. Sanjiva Reddy was defeated—P.T.I.

215

TIMES OF INDIA
13/10/1969

CWC itself will be asked to decide: Subramaniam issue

NEW DELHI, October 12.

THE issue of Mr. Subramaniam's continuance as a member of the Congress Working Committee is being remitted to the Working Committee itself for a decision.

It is understood the Congress President, Mr. S. Nijalingappa, is ~~not likely~~ to take any further initiative to resolve the constitutional anomaly on this issue.

At the direction of the Congress President, therefore, Mr. Subramaniam has been invited for the Working Committee meeting on October 30.

The Working Committee will decide the date and venue of the next session of the All-India Congress Committee.

POLITICAL SITUATION

According to the agenda prepared by the AICC secretariat, the committee will also discuss the general political situation, with particular reference to the communal riots in Gujarat and the unrest in various areas, including Assam, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

The committee is also scheduled to consider the foreign policy, especially the rebuff suffered by India at Rabat, the implementation of the ten-point programme, as endorsed by the Bangalore AICC, and the Fourth Plan.

According to sources close to Mr. Nijalingappa, he is referring the Subramaniam issue to the Working Committee in view of the charge of partisanship levelled against him about a letter he was intending to write to the former Tamil Nadu Congress chief about his membership of the Working Committee.

These sources, however, affirmed that, legally, Mr. Subramaniam had ceased to be a member of the CWC and that, as Congress President, Mr. Nijalingappa had the power to exclude him from the committee.

SYNDICATE'S DEMAND

Though Mrs. Gandhi's supporters seem to favour an immediate summoning of the AICC session in Delhi, indications are that the syndicate leaders will press for holding the session outside.

They may also like to have the session only in late December after the forthcoming session of Parliament is over.

According to sources close to the Congress President, he may not oblige his critics in the party by offering to resign. On the other hand, the demand for his stepping down is reported to have stiffened his attitude.

Mr. Nijalingappa has taken the move to censure him seriously and, instead of vacating his office, may ask the AICC to vindicate the policies and actions initiated by him during his tenure as Congress President.

The Congress President is understood to have told his close associates that, as party president, he had given his full co-operation to the Prime Minister and had striven to set up the highest standard of rectitude ever since he took up office.

He is reported to be unhappy and distressed at the various accusations made against him and has emphasised that, because of the campaign of vilification against him, he would not like to voluntarily relinquish office. It is for the AICC to give its verdict, Mr. Nijalingappa feels.

Regarding the offer by a former Union Finance Minister, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, to mediate among top Congress leaders, Mr. Nijalingappa is said to feel that he has no differences with the Prime Minister or any other leader.—U.N.I.

Kamaraj warns Delhi of CPI game

MADRAS, Oct. 12. Former Congress President K. Kamaraj warned "those in Delhi" against counting on the support of Opposition parties, particularly the CPI for the survival of the Congress.

Winding up the two-day session of the Tamil Nadu Congress here, he said the Communist support for the Congress and identifying "some Congressmen" as "progressive" would only spell the ruin of the Congress.

Mr. Kamaraj alleged that the CPI was trying to "topple" the Marxist-led United Front in Kerala. "What they are trying in Kerala, they would repeat in West Bengal in another three months. When they can topple a Ministry led by their fraternal party, how long will it take for them to topple the Congress Government whom they have befriended overnight."

He said any truck with the CPI would only weaken the Congress. "If the Congress has to depend on the support of Opposition parties for its survival, then you can even wind up the organisation."

DISCIPLINE

Mr. Kamaraj said the aim of the two-day TNCC session was only to stress the need to maintain discipline in the party. Unless discipline was maintained, the party could not remain strong. Even after unity resolution "one section had been talking about several things." Those who remained silent were accused as cowards.

Mr. Kamaraj said those who were keeping silent were doing so only to preserve party unity. But people "who talk irresponsibly are not worried about splitting the party."

Mr. Kamaraj said instead of

CS invited to CWC meeting

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According to sources, Mr. Nijalingappa is referring the Subramaniam issue to the committee in view of the charge of partisanship levelled against him.

The sources, however, affirmed that legally, Mr. Subramaniam had ceased to be a member of the CWC and that as Congress President Mr. Nijalingappa had the power to exclude him from the committee.

As regards the offer by former Finance Minister Krishnamachari to mediate and bring about an understanding among the Congress leaders, Mr. Nijalingappa is said to feel that he had no differences with the Prime Minister or any other leader.—UNI.

highlighting the differences, the leaders could sit together and discuss about constructive programmes for the people.

They could also discuss about adjusting the economic policy on the Gandhian way since there was spontaneous enthusiasm among the people now to follow the Mahatma, he said.

Mr. Kamaraj said bank nationalisation was not the end, but only a beginning. There were other measures to implement like State trading of foodgrains, and abolition of princely privileges.

While the privy purse issue was being negotiated he said he could not understand the delay in abolishing the princely privileges, which could be done by "a mere executive order or amending the Constitution."

Further delay in ending the special privileges of the ex-rulers would only complicate the problem and create doubts in the public mind.

Mr. Kamaraj called upon the political parties not to indulge in anything that would provoke communal hatred.

On Tamil Nadu politics, Mr. Kamaraj said there were allegations from several quarters that the money received from the Centre for drought relief was not used properly. It was the responsibility of the State Government to dispel this apprehension.—UNI.

TTK regrets letter war

MADRAS, Oct. 12.—Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, former Union Finance Minister, said today that the differences between the Prime Minister and other party leaders were not "so vital" as to be impossible of rapprochement.

Mr. Krishnamachari, who yesterday offered to mediate in the crisis in the top leadership of the Congress, told newsmen that the leaders should avoid pushing each other to a point of no return.

In the Presidential election, he said, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was "pushed to a corner" by the leaders' where she "lost her sense of judgment."

These leaders could as well learn from the example of Jawaharlal Nehru, who never allowed differences with colleagues to be carried to such a point.

The trouble with them was their "long-range duelling" through letters. If they avoided this kind of "bad" correspondence, and met each other they would be creating a proper atmosphere, he said.

Mr. Krishnamachari wondered whether the warring sides would take his mediation offer seriously, though he was prepared to do his bit.

Mr. Krishnamachari said that though Mr. C. Subramaniam technically ceased to be a member of the Working Committee, he could be enabled to continue if the leaders wanted.—PTI.

PATIL DECRIES ROW OVER CS

BOMBAY, Oct. 12.

Mr. S. K. Patil, MP, today said the issue of Mr. C. Subramaniam's membership of the Congress Working Committee seemed to be a "storm in a teacup".

"If Mr. Subramaniam can remain a member of the Working Committee according to the constitution, nobody can prevent him from doing so. But if he is out of the Committee, then neither the President nor even the unanimous vote of the Working Committee can keep him there", he added.

Mr. Patil told UNI that as far as he could see, the Congress constitution, in the framing of which he had a part, was very clear on the point.

"Since Mr. Subramaniam has ceased to be a member of the AICC by his resignation of the Presidentship of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, he cannot remain a member of the Working Committee."

The Congress President, Mr. S. Nijalingappa would have been only too glad to include him in his quota of membership of the Working Committee but he cannot do so just now because the quota is full and there is no room for addition.

"I do not know how the President's mind is working. He can perhaps invite him to the Working Committee but in that capacity, he will be merely an invitee and not a full-fledged member."

In the Working Committee, Mr. Patil said, they had never taken votes. He did not know what would happen in future but in the past that had been the tradition. It was easy for Mr. Subramaniam

to get elected to the AICC and then come to the Working Committee. "We all want him. There should be no controversy on this point at all", he added.

As regards Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi and Mr. Kakkani Venkatratnam, Mr. Patil said it was not part of the constitution as such but a kind of rule which was made in the interests of efficient functioning of the organisation, that nobody can be a Minister and President of the PCC at the same time. This was a very healthy rule. If any exception was to be made in the cases of these friends, that would be a different story altogether. But they themselves on second thoughts would realise that such exception would be a dangerous precedent. "This also is not a matter for any controversy. Unfortunately, most of us have got into a mood in which even the smallest thing takes the form of controversy."

UNDERSTANDING

For instance, Mr. Patil said, in the case of Mr. Subramaniam, if any of the six signatories would have telephoned to the Congress President, there would have been no necessity of writing such a letter and creating a controversy. "The best thing that can happen is a friendly understanding between the Congress President and Prime Minister. All Congressmen will be happy if this happens at the earliest possible moment."

If the Working Committee or the AICC were to meet only for confrontation, it would surely spell disaster to the organisation. This must be avoided at all costs, he added.

Discussing the question of Con-

gress finances, Mr. Patil who is also the Treasurer of the AICC said the ban on company donations had created genuine difficulty for the Congress organisation. Under this ban, no company could make any contribution to any political organisation. Similarly, no company could contribute to any individual for political purposes. This meant that even for non-political work of the Congress, it would be difficult for the companies to make any contribution.

For the last few years, he said, the Congress and other political parties had been getting money from companies big or small. These monies were given by cheque and were accountable. They were shown in the books and there was no hide and seek about it.

Before taking away this source, he felt some alternative source should have been created. The ban was not only applicable to election funds but to all contributions at all times. Even at this late stage, if the Company Law was further amended on the American model, an individual and not a company could make contribution for political parties.

In America, an individual could contribute up to \$5,000 to election funds free of Income-tax. If some such provision was made, it would be easy for political parties, not only the Congress but all parties, to improve their finances.

Mr. Patil said at present the Congress was experiencing great difficulty. There was a backlog of debts. As the Treasurer, he found it extremely difficult, almost next to impossible, to square up the accounts. The present position would positively lead to corruption.—UNI.

DECCAN HERALD
13/10/1969.

Cong Forum to hold State convention

From Our Staff Correspondent
MYSORE, Oct. 12.--A decision to hold a State convention of the Congress Forum for Socialist Action in Mysore City by the end of the month taken out today at a meeting held under the auspices of the Mysore District (Rural) Congress Committee.

The meeting, which was convened by Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, MLA and convener, decided to invite Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to inaugurate the convention and Chief Minister Veeendra Patil to preside.

The meeting authorised Mr. Urs to organise a district unit for Mysore. As many as 98 Congressmen in the district attended the meeting, including Messrs H. D. Tulsidas, MP, B. Basavaiah, M. Mallikarjunaswamy, MLAs P. Venkataramanaiah, DCC President, Mr. K. B. Shivaiah proposed a vote of thanks.

DECCAN HERALD
13/10/1969.

Gupta deplures PM's letter

2.25

NAINI TAL, Oct. 12. — Chief Minister C. B. Gupta today expressed his unhappiness that Congress leaders who should maintain unity and strengthen the party "persist in illusory statements based on wrong information."

Mr. Gupta was commenting on the letter which Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her colleagues had written to Congress President Nijalingappa accusing the latter of "arbitrarily removing Mr. C. Subramaniam from the Congress Working Committee and UPCC President Kamalapati Tripathi and APCC President Venkataratnam from their posts."

Mr. Gupta said these questions should be decided at the "proper forum."

Mr. Gupta said, "If things continue like this, the workers in the Congress will feel bewildered and divide the party at each and every stage in the country."

—PTI.

INDIAN EXPRESS

13/10/1969

Kamaraj alert

From Page 1, Col. 4

or who was a conservative, he asked.

Mr. Kamaraj conceded that the Congress was now weak. It should not be weakened further, he told the members, assuring them that he was fully aware of their feelings over maintenance of discipline in the ranks.

Discipline

Mr. Kamaraj was referring to a resolution adopted earlier at the meeting, which stressed the need to maintain discipline.

He was aware that the members wanted the resolution to be strongly worded, and that the resolution as adopted, did not meet their feelings. They might be angry with him for that.

The indiscipline made one sad and angry—sad because the party was becoming weak, and angry because the Congress members themselves were responsible for it.

Only real Congressmen were saddened, not due to selfishness, but because of the repercussions for the country if the Congress became weak or was split.

Mr. Kamaraj said some did not care whether the Congress was split or remained united. This was not courage but irresponsibility.

Scramble

The country was plagued with all kinds of confusions, including the confusion over the Centre's language resolution. In spite of this confusion, the Congress remained as the sole unifying force, and it should not be weakened, he pleaded.

Mr. Kamaraj squarely blamed all political leaders, including Congressmen, for the glaring mistakes apparent now. He charged these leaders with pursuing personal interests, forgetting the country's interests. They had created a craze among people for power and wealth he said.

These leaders had forgotten Gandhiji's teachings. It was high time they recaptured the Gandhian spirit.

Mr. Kamaraj said Congress leaders should sit together to chart out a plan of action for people's welfare. "Let our differences remain. What we are going to do to the people is the vital thing. Let us not highlight the divisions", he said.

Mr. Kamaraj was highly critical of the continuance of the special privileges of the Princes, when the Constitution had proclaimed equality.

The former Congress President said the Centre should be strong, but this could not be brought about by just arming itself with more powers through legislation. The Centre should win the confidence of the people.

INDIAN EXPRESS
13/10/1969

Kamaraj caution on Red Trojan

Express News Service

MADRAS, Oct. 12

Mr. K. Kamaraj today warned the top leadership of the Congress against playing into the hands of the right Communists who, he said, always split an organisation by setting one group in it against another.

The former Congress President, who was addressing the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee at the conclusion of its two-day session here, said the right Communists were flattering one group in the Congress as the "most progressive" just to wreck the organisation.

"The Delhi people do not seem to have realised this danger. It is these Communists who are trusted very much there," he said, and asked how the Congress leaders could be-

lieve the right Communists, who were out to topple their own "brothers", the left Communists, in the Kerala United Front Ministry.

"When they try to topple the Kerala Ministry, what will they not do to you?" he asked. He also expected the right Communists to adopt the same strategy in West Bengal in three months' time.

Copy

Mr. Kamaraj said the left Communists called the right Communists reactionaries because they did not like them. "We are also doing the same thing in the Congress—those we do not like we dub as reactionaries". He wondered whether

the Congress was copying the Communist tactics, or was the other way about.

Mr. Kamaraj charged that there was a deliberate move to furnish his name on the bank nationalisation issue. He said he did not mind the DMK's attempts in this direction as "I do not consider the DMK a party at all", but the right Communists also adopted this strategy.

If the party could exist only with the support of Opposition parties, Mr. Kamaraj asserted, the organisation might as well be wound up.

Mr. Kamaraj also deprecated the talk about polarisation. Was it possible to say who was a progressive

Turn to Page 9, Col. 4

INDIAN EXPRESS
13/10/1969.

TNCC stand

Form Page 1, Col. 4

said bank nationalisation should be explained to the masses and the small man guided to make use of the credit opportunities.

Some members wanted the leadership to chalk out a positive programme of action, even agitation, to fight the 'evils of DMK rule' in Tamil Nadu.

One of them alleged that much of the Central aid for drought relief had been misappropriated by DMK men through various agencies like the prosperity brigade, a voluntary service organisation sponsored by the DMK Government.

Mr. K. T. Kosalram said socialism could not be ushered in by bank nationalisation alone. Congressmen should go to the people with the party's 10-point economic programme. As the next step, he said, ceiling on urban property, one of the 10 points, should be enforced.

Unity traced

Referring to the party crisis at the State and all-India levels, Mr. Kosalram said past history had shown the party achieved great things in moments of crisis. People who hoped for the disintegration of the party would be disappointed.

Mr. E. V. K. Sampah, former MP, said abolition of privy purses would be symbolic of Government's determination to usher in an egalitarian society.

Mr. P. Kakkar, new president of the TNCC presided.

Among those present on the dais, were Mr. K. Kamara! MP and former Congress President Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, former Union Finance Minister and Mr. C. Subramaniam whose resignation from the TNCC presidency was accepted yesterday.

No quarter to party indiscipline: TNCC

MADRAS, Oct. 12

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee today adopted a motion emphasising that discipline was a sine qua non for the growth of the Congress Party and urging its enforcement 'ruthlessly', without fear or favour.

The motion came in the form of an amendment to an official resolution which made a reference to 'the regrettable atmosphere' in the wake of the defeat of the official Congress candidate in the Presidential election.

The official resolution expressed distress at the defeat of Mr. Sanjiva Reddy. While welcoming the unity resolution of the Working Committee, it requested the committee and the Congress leaders to ensure that such an atmosphere did not recur.

Original draft

The original draft of the resolution on the subject, circulated to members, was somewhat more strongly worded.

While expressing 'great regret' at the defeat of Mr. Reddy, and welcoming the unity resolution of the Congress Working Committee, it expressed disappointment that the question of discipline, so essential for the party's growth,

was ignored and the reasons for the defeat were not gone into.

The draft was withdrawn on suggestions from a number of leaders, including Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. The revised resolution was moved from the Chair and adopted.

Mr. K. Kamaraj wanted both the original draft and the revised form to be circulated to the press. The latter was reported to have been prepared by Mr. Krishnamachari.

Firm steps urged

By another resolution, the TNCC called upon the Central and State Governments to take firm steps to put down the "evil forces" responsible for communal disturbances.

The TNCC also adopted a resolution welcoming the nationalisation of 14 Banks and demanding nationalisation to be extended to other scheduled and foreign banks.

It also welcomed the visit of the Frontier Gandhi and hoped that his visit would help in "realising the dreams of Gandhiji".

During the discussion, members

Turn to Page 9, Col. 7

INDIAN EXPRESS
13/10/1969

TTK confident of rapprochement

MADRAS, Oct. 12 (PTI).

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, former Union Finance Minister, said today that the differences between the Prime Minister and other party leaders were not "so vital" as to be impossible of rapprochement.

Mr. Krishnamachari, who yes-

terday offered to mediate in the present crisis in the top leadership of the Congress Party, told newsmen in an informal chat that the leaders should avoid pushing each other to a point of no return.

In the Presidential election, he said, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was "pushed to a corner" by the leaders, where she "lost her sense of judgment".

These leaders could as well learn from the example of the late Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, who never allowed differences with colleagues to be carried to such a point.

Main trouble

The trouble with them was their "long-range duelling" through letters. If they avoided this kind of "bad" correspondence, and met each other, they would be creating a proper atmosphere, he said.

Referring to his mediation offer, Mr. Krishnamachari wondered if the warring sides would take him seriously, though he was prepared to do his bit.

Regarding Mr. C. Subramaniam's membership of the Working Committee, Mr. Krishnamachari said though technically he ceased to be a member, he could be enabled to continue if the leaders wanted.

High Command meet

From Page 1, Col. 4

and his continuance as a member discussed later. He had not indicated to anyone that the question of his membership should be settled before the October 30 session.

PCCs' plea

It is however, apparent that a number of Pradesh Congress committees are now sending up requisition for an AICC debate on the economic front. AICC sources say that much expectation has been raised in the country by the incessant blare about socialism. Beyond the nationalisation of 14 banks, they find that no more pronouncement has come.

AICC sources pointed out that the resolutions of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee were a pointer to the way of thinking of Congressmen who, while welcoming any progressive step, wanted more to be done so that lost time could be made up.

So far no requisition or communication has been received by the AICC which wants the resignation of Mr. Nijalingappa. AICC sources pointed out that Mr. Nijalingappa had himself not been keen on continuing. But he was not in a mood to oblige anyone because they wanted him to go.

SN's stand

According to a source close to Mr. Nijalingappa, what is most important today is not considerations about individuals but about the entire country. He is reported to have remarked that the Congress should steady about the happenings in West Bengal and Kerala and prepare itself to meet any demands that might be made on it.

The indications today were that there would be no AICC meeting before the third or fourth week of December.

It is considered possible that the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee might want the AICC session to be held there since it is long that the State hosted a session. The intense "grass root approach" programme of Mr. Kamaraj, it is learnt, will be launched soon and a session of the AICC would be timely.

Kakani rebutted

Referring to the "dig" or Mr. Kakani Venkatratnam about the working of the AICC a source today said that the boot was on the other leg.

Mr. Venkatratnam, who is both president of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee and also a Minister in the State Cabinet, is understood to have told the press that the AICC cleared the name of the candidate for the by-election to the Legislative Council in Andhra Pradesh on the eve of withdrawal of nomination papers.

The AICC source clarified today that it was the APCC which slept over the matters in spite of the AICC's letter a fortnight earlier and a subsequent telegram. Just when the nomination was to be filed word came from Andhra Pradesh about Smt. Rajamani Devi who the AICC discovered, was a habitual opponent of official Congress candidates.

The general secretary immediately lodged the AICC's objection. Meanwhile the Congress President contacted members of the Congress Parliamentary Board including Mr. Jagjivan Ram. Opinion

then was that the only thing to do was to support Mr. Narayan.

Chief Minister Brahmananda Reddy, when contacted, refused to listen to the advice. The General Secretary then told the APCC secretary that the view of CPB was that Mr. Narayan was the official candidate.

The AICC source said it was not up to the APCC president to cock a snook at New Delhi. The fact was Mr. Reddy was determined to flout the CPB decision. The APCC secretary had resigned in protest about the arbitrary way the State unit functioned.

Turks call

Mr. Chandra Shekar and Mr. Krishan Kant, members of Parliament, said today it was imperative that the all-India Congress Committee should make an assessment of the "developing situation" and decide upon "a time-bound programme of action" for implementing the economic resolutions adopted at Bangalore.

In a joint statement they said bank nationalisation was only one aspect of the overall programme and other steps "are to follow".

"For this", they said, "a fundamental change in the approach towards national problems and organisational leadership is essential. We are confident that the rank and file (of the Congress) will assert itself and reorient the organisation to transform it into an instrument of social change".

INDIAN EXPRESS
13/10/1969

Gujarat riot, Rabat for CWC meet

Express News Service

NEW DELHI, Oct. 12.

The Congress Working Committee at its meeting here on October 30 and 31, will discuss a number of subjects including the foreign and economic policies and this, by no means, can be described as a confrontation between groups, AICC sources said today.

The CWC will discuss the recent riots in Gujarat, India's foreign policy with special reference to the rebuff at Rabat, the economic policy accepted in the Bangalore session of the A.I.C.C. and the progress in its implementation and the Fourth Plan.

Referring to reports appearing in a section of the press that both "sides" are preparing for a showdown, the AICC sources said the AICC did not function, in terms of showdowns. If the discussion of a serious subject was interpreted as a showdown, then it might be there.

It was clarified that Mr. C. Subramaniam would be an invitee. No letter had yet been despatched but the Congress President, Mr. S. Nijalingappa, had even earlier held the view that he should be invited.

Turn to Page 9, Col. 5

Crucial 'war' at AICC only

Continued from page 1 col. 4
AICC and then seek the membership of the CWC.

This is countered by the argument that, as in the case of Ministers, who can remain in the Government without being a member of the Legislature for a period of six months, the Congress party constitution provides that a person may be appointed a member of the Working Committee without his being a member of the AICC for a maximum period of six months.

The contention that this applied only to nominated members is contested on the ground that the provision was incorporated in the constitution when there used to be only nominated members. It should, therefore, in the normal course be deemed to be applicable to all members.

PM's supporters

Meanwhile, some of the supporters of the Prime Minister are mounting pressure on Mr Nijalingappa to step down from his office, having failed to direct the organization on the right lines. In a joint statement issued today, Mr Chandra Shekhar and Mr Krishna Kant ridiculed the Syndicate's repeated emphasis on "discipline." They asked how Mr S. K. Patil had denounced the Government for banning company donations to political parties.

The two MPs, known to be strong supporters of the Prime Minister in her recent clashes with the party bosses, have suggested that Mr Nijalingappa and others had "outlived their utility" and they cannot be the pioneers of social change in today's circumstances and sooner they give way to the emerging forces the better they will serving the cause of democracy and socialism.

They had demanded that the AICC session be called at an early date to make an assessment of the developing situation and decide a time bound concrete programme of action for implementing the economic resolutions adopted at Bangalore.

According to Mr Chandra Shekhar and Mr Krishna Kant, bank nationalization was only one aspect of the overall programme and other steps were to follow. "We are confident that the rank and file will assert itself and re-orient the organization to transform it into an instrument of social change," the statement adds.

UNI adds: Congress General Secretary Sadiq Ali is understood to have addressed a strongly-worded communication to the President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr K. Venkataratnam, about the defeat of the officially approved candidate Mr R. L. Narayana, in the recent elections to the Legislative Council of the State.

Mr Sadiq Ali has criticised the manner in which the PCC ignored the

decision of the Congress President and got Mrs Raja Mani Devi elected, despite the AICC's rejection of her candidature.

AICC sources today refuted Mr Venkataratnam's criticism that the AICC had sent its letter regarding Mr Narayana's candidature after the election was over.

It is stated that the High Command's approval of Mr Narayana's name was conveyed by Mr Sadiq Ali to State Chief Minister K. Brahmananda Reddy, who was here on Sept. 28, but he declined to own responsibility for his success since the Congress President had not heeded his plea. He said it was for the AICC to send the communication direct to the APCC.

High command decision

One of the general secretaries of the APCC was contacted over the phone and told of the High Command's decision. A telegram was also sent to the APCC. A formal letter was then posted for the sake of formality. AICC sources said that even if the letter might have reached the PCC office after the elections to the Council, the Pradesh Congress leaders from the Chief Minister downwards, could not plead ignorance of the AICC's decision.

AICC sources said that in this entire episode, the APCC had tried to keep the AICC in the dark. Despite repeated reminders, the proposal for Mrs Raja Mani Devi was sent by the APCC to the AICC only a day prior to the date of nomination. Nevertheless, the AICC office found out she was a red-liner (had opposed the official Congress candidate in the 1967-poll after denial of ticket by the party). The APCC, it is stated, was informed of the AICC's disapproval several days before the poll.

Though the Chief Minister was prepared to have a third candidate, only two candidates were in the field — Mrs Raja Mani Devi and Mr R. L. Narayana. In view of this, the AICC had finally to approve of Mr Narayana's name setting aside the Chief Minister's opposition on the ground of his participation in the Telengana satyagraha.

These sources also revealed that before reaching this decision Mr Sadiq Ali had consulted members of the Parliamentary Board who were available and they included Mr S. K. Patil, Mr K. Kamaraj, Mr Morarji Desai and Mr Jagjivan Ram.

Banarsi Das meets Nijalingappa

New Delhi, Oct. 12 (UN)—Mr Banarsi Das, one of the general secretaries of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee called on Congress President S. Nijalingappa here today.

Mr Banarsi Das is reported to have discussed the election of a new UPCC President in place of Mr Kamalapati Tripathi.

Mr Nijalingappa recently asked the UPCC to fill the post soon, in view of Mr Tripathi's resignation.

CWC will sort out Subramaniam issue

Hindustan Times Correspondent

New Delhi, Oct. 12—The controversy over former Tamil Nadu Congress president C. Subramaniam's membership of the Congress Working Committee, will be sorted out by the CWC itself, scheduled to meet here on Oct. 30. Despite his strong reservations, party chief Nijalingappa has sent the invitation to Mr Subramaniam to attend the meeting.

This does not suggest any attempt at a reconciliation. On the contrary, both the camps seem to be preparing for a fresh showdown, with the growing feeling that the Working Committee's unity resolution adopted on Aug. 25, five days after the Presidential poll result, has lost its significance.

Irrespective of the stand the CWC takes in the matter, the crucial trial of strength may take place at the next meeting of the AICC. While Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's supporters are insisting on an early session, viewing the country's climate in their favour following bank nationalisation, party chief Nijalingappa and other members of the Syndicate apparently propose to wait and watch a little more to consolidate their position.

The Oct. 30 meeting of the CWC will decide the date and venue of the AICC. Besides its timing, the venue of the AICC has also become a matter of controversy. Mrs Gandhi's supporters want the session to be held at Delhi. This is not favoured by the other group.

Disturbances

The agenda of the Working Committee meeting includes a discussion on the general political situation, with particular reference to the recent Gujarat riots and regional tension or disturbances in Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Punjab.

While considering the foreign policy, especially the rebuff the country suffered at Rabat, the Working Committee may try to identify responsibility for the episode. The implementation of the 10-point programme (the idea being to focus attention on the non-implemented points) and the five-year Plan are also listed on the agenda.

As regards the Subramaniam issue, both sides are arguing their respective cases. The Syndicate members contend that having lost his (ex-officio) membership of the AICC, Mr Subramaniam can no longer remain a member of the Working Committee. They maintain that he should first get elected to the

Continued on page 11 col. 4

the hindustan times
13/10/1969

232

TNCC wants take-over of all banks

Hindustan Times Correspondent

Madras, Oct. 12 — The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee today called for the nationalisation of all banks in the country, including the foreign ones and demanded the immediate abolition of privy purses and princely privileges.

The two-day session of the PCC ended on a dull note, the meeting adopting a toned-down resolution on party discipline and unity.

The earlier draft resolution

calling for an investigation into the causes that led to the defeat of party nominee Sanjiva Reddy, in the recent Presidential election was replaced with a comparatively sober resolution at the instance of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.

The new resolution while expressing the TNCC's great distress over Mr Reddy's defeat, welcomed the Aug. 25 unity resolution of the Congress Working Committee. "Nevertheless, the TNCC requests the Working Committee and the leaders to ensure that the atmosphere created by the events since July is not created again." Mr Kamaraj accepted the addition to the resolution by way of an amendment, which said: "Discipline is essential for the growth of the party. It must be enforced impartially without fear or favour."

Another amendment laying stress on the strict enforcement of discipline was withdrawn by the mover after Mr Kamaraj's plea.

PTI adds: Mr Kamaraj warned the Centre not to be swayed by the support being extended to it by opposition parties, especially the Right Communists.

The Right Communists were even now busy attempting to topple the United Front Government in Kerala, he said. He was sure that they would be repeating these tactics in West Bengal in the next three months.

Why CS can't continue on CWC: Patil

BOMBAY, Oct. 12 (UNI) — Mr. S. K. Patil, MP, today said the issue of Mr. C. Subramaniam's membership of the Congress Working Committee seemed to be a "storm in the tea cup".

"If Mr. Subramaniam can remain a member of the Working Committee according to the constitution, nobody can prevent him from doing so, but if he is out of the committee according to the constitution, then neither the President nor even the unanimous vote of the Working Committee can keep him there", he added.

Mr. Patil told UNI that as far as he could see, the Congress constitution, in the framing of which he had a part, was very clear on the point. "Since Mr. Subramaniam has ceased to be a member of the AICC by his resignation of the presidency of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, he cannot remain a member of the Working Committee. The Congress President Mr. S. Nijalingappa, would have been only too glad to include him in his quota of membership of the Working Committee, but he cannot do so just now because the quota is full and there is no room for addition.

"I do not know how the President's mind is working. He can perhaps invite him to the Working Committee, but in that capacity he will be merely an invitee and not a full-fledged member."

Tradition

In the Working Committee, Mr. Patil said, they had never taken votes. He did not know what would happen in future but in the past that had been the tradition. It was easy for Mr. Subramaniam to get elected to the AICC and then come to the Working Committee. "We all want him. There should be no controversy on this point at all", he added.

As regards Mr. Kamalapati Tripathi, and Mr. Kakani Venkatratnam, Mr. Patil said they were not part of the constitution as such. It was a kind of rule which was made in the interests of efficient functioning of the organisation. The rule was that nobody can be a Minister and president of the PCC at the same time.

This was a very healthy rule. If any exception was to be made in the cases of these friends, that would be a different story altogether. But they themselves on second thoughts would realise that such exception would be a dangerous precedent.

"This also is not a matter for any controversy. Unfortunately, most of us have got into a mood in which even the smallest thing takes the form of controversy."

For instance, Mr. Patil said, in the case of Mr. Subramaniam, if any of the six signatories would have telephoned to the Congress President, there would have been no necessity of writing such a letter and creating a controversy. "The best thing that can happen is a friendly understanding between the Congress President and Prime Minister. All Congressmen will be happy if this happens at the earliest possible moment."

If the Working Committee or the AICC were to meet only for confrontation, it would surely spell disaster to the organisation. This must be avoided at all costs, he added.

Ouster call

About 100 local Congress and Youth Congress workers of Allahabad have demanded the removal of Nijalingappa, Atulya Ghosh, S. K. Patil and C. B. Gupta from the party after an emergent plenary session of the All-India Congress Committee.

They also resolved to stage a black flag demonstration against Chief Minister Gupta during his visit to Allahabad later this month if notices against Mr. Subramaniam and two other leaders were not withdrawn by then.

The Himachal Pradesh Congress has once again requested Mr. Nijalingappa to postpone his proposed visit to Himachal Pradesh scheduled to begin from mid-October.

233

THE MAIL
13/10/1969

C.S. Issue Likely to Polarise AICC

From MOHAN RAM

NEW DELHI, Oct. 12.

WHATEVER the outcome of the "confrontation" at the Congress Working Committee meeting on Oct. 30, the AICC session to be called shortly will have the decisive say on the Subramaniam issue which has forced the party into a new crisis.

The struggle now shifts to the grassroots, with a fierce struggle for control of the party machinery and a move to polarise the 650-odd member A.I.C.C. into the Syndicate and Prime Minister's camps.

The Prime Minister's supporters, while claiming that they have stayed the "dismissal" of Mr Subramaniam, do not rule out the possibility of his ultimate exit, if Mr Nijalingappa goes ahead with his plan to exclude Mr Subramaniam from the Working Committee. The issue will certainly be raised at the next AICC meeting.

All-out Bid

It is also possible that the Prime Minister's supporters would make an all-out bid to win the by-election that would be caused if Mr Subramaniam is removed from the Working Committee. If the Prime Minister's supporters put up a candidate for the seat and win it, it would be a clear demonstration of their majority in the AICC. Either way,

the Subramaniam issue will polarise the AICC sharply and extend the area of conflict to a wider forum.

The camp that wins such a by-election can claim that its stand has been vindicated and its strength proved beyond doubt.

If the Prime Minister's camp goes ahead with its move to censure Mr Nijalingappa, once again the AICC will become the final arbiter.

So Mrs Gandhi's supporters have not been taking any chances. For quite sometime they had begun preparations for an AICC session and when Mrs Gandhi and five others demanded an early session they were confident of their strength in the AICC.

By all accounts, the Prime Minister is in much stronger position in the Working Committee and the AICC with Mr Chavan breaking off with the Syndicate.

THE MAIL
13/10/1969

**TNCC CHIEF'S
ELECTION**

Surprise in P.M.'s Camp

From Our Special Correspondent
NEW DELHI, Oct. 12.

THE unanimous election of Mr P. Kakkan as TNCC President (See Page 5) is interpreted here as a personal triumph for Mr Kamaraj and as a proof that he is in unquestioned control of the Congress organisation in the State.

The Prime Minister's followers were suggesting that Mr Kamaraj's absence from the last meeting of the Congress Working Committee was because of his fear that he might not be able to secure the unanimous election of his candidate as the PCC President.

The TNCC Presidentship has rarely been contested during the last two decades and Mr Kakkan's "victory" is a measure of Mr Kamaraj's ability to manage a consensus on an issue.

The Prime Minister's camp had fondly hoped that there would be a contest, and the opponent would pool a substantial number of votes against Mr Kamaraj's nominee, whose success of course, was beyond doubt. But yesterday's outcome came as a surprise they had not bargained for. The election took place in the wake of the Prime Minister's trip to Tamilnadu, which has been claimed as a great success for her.

THE MAIL
13/10/1969

A Delhi Causerie

(Continued from Page 4)

written to Mr C. Subramaniam's story in Tamilnadu till then, or the stories of other leaders in other states like Mr Kamalapati Tripathi in U.P. Mr Nijalingappa's term of office is till the end of 1970, but then, it is generally believed in Delhi that the Prime Minister, who is now also Finance Minister, will give a new lead to the country during the budget session of Parliament. This means that important formative decisions will have to be taken before then by the Congress Party and organisation. The forthcoming AICC meeting will therefore, be crucial.

There has been strong criticism here against the Government's policy on issues like communalism, dealing with foreign Governments like the Arab countries and Israel and parties preaching violence like the Communists. Mr Chavan was asked last week why the Government was contemplating action against some Jan Sangh leaders, who had been making speeches in favour of a pro-Hindu State, while no action was being taken against men like Sheikh Abdulla, who were all the time pouring communal venom. Mr Chavan gave the conventional reply that the Government had eyes for all. Perhaps, it is true that the communal bogie is being carried too far for political reasons. A Jan Sangh leader in Delhi has said that secularism should not mean "de-Hinduising" India. Mr Chavan himself said last week that both Hindus and Muslims were responsible for the communal flare-ups.

The policy of making special efforts to win support from minorities and projecting extra Left positions appears to be based on a consciousness of the growing weakness of the party at the political level. Only when the leadership becomes strong and consolidated, more steady and balanced, policy outlines can become noticeable. Whether the Congress leadership can acquire the necessary strength is really the test before the Congress today and it is in this sense that developments in the Working Committee and the AICC would be crucial.

CONSENSUS TO CONSCIENCE ERA

Indira's Move to Project New Image of Congress

going to be a fruitful one. Mrs Gandhi holds the key to power in New Delhi today. She has an image which alone has a popular appeal. As she rightly declares, after all, it is difficult to refute the charge that it is these 'bosses' who brought the Congress to its present state, who, in the manner of the exercise of their authority, pushed out Congressmen like Mr Ajoy Mukherjee and sacrificed the Congress to the Communists in Bengal. The old leaders may be able to build up a majority against the Prime Minister in the Working Committee, but she has the majority with her in the Parliamentary party, and, in any case, any attempt to oust her would end up in the dissolution of Parliament and the blow-up of the party.

There is no doubt that Mrs Gandhi can have her way in the party. The more practical men have joined her—men like Mr Y. B. Chavan, Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mr Subramaniam—and they are bound to carry their message to the AICC. The ques-

tion is not, who is right or who is wrong. In the Congress today, as in politics generally, what matters is, who is the winner. However much one may feel for the old leaders, if the Congress has to survive—the AICC cannot want it not to survive. The leadership has to be conceded to Mrs Gandhi and the simple fact remains that those who stand with her win.

This is, however, neither the

week, Mr Chavan was referred to his phrase "politics of commitment" of the Congress. This helped him to project the Congress view for the immediate future, namely, that the Congress would embark on a scheme of action, and this would be the plank from which Mrs Gandhi would approach the forthcoming AICC. Mr Chavan gave a hint on the type of action proposed by referring to the land and tenancy problem. He indicated that this matter would have to be gone into with the Food Minister, Mr Jagjivan Ram. The latter has already declared that land must go to the tiller, and the landless should have all the land available to give them productive work, irrespective of whether the land is owned by someone else or the State. In practice, these may mean sweeping reforms. Mr Chavan promised the end of privy purses by December. This is the politics of commitment—working up to set targets—on which the Congress will now be launched.

By the time the AICC draws up its plan of action on the basis of this politics of commitment, it is obvious that new teams of leadership, both in the States and at the Centre, will take shape. 'Finis' cannot be

Continued on Page 6

NEW DELHI CAUSERIE By PERTINAX

beginning nor the end of the Congress Party's battle for survival in the 1972 elections. Mrs Gandhi may appear to have been on embarrassingly friendly terms with some Opposition parties like the Communist-dominated Government in Bengal and the DMK Government in Tamilnadu. The warm popular reception she received during her recent visits to these States was not due so much to the Congress Party's strength as the support extended by the State Government. Nevertheless, Mrs Gandhi, as the Congress chief, will have to fight them. Only when she consolidates her leadership, a task which she began with the presidential election of Mr V. V. Giri, she can begin this new phase of her job, preparing her party for the new elections.

It is not known in New Delhi at the moment, when the Working Committee is going to be called. The Congress President, Mr Nijalingappa, sticks to the date fixed at the end of the month, while the Prime Minister and her supporters want to it to meet earlier. It is on the cards that a meeting of the AICC will follow the Working Committee meeting, and it would set the seal once and for all on the composition and character of new leadership team which will stand behind Mrs Gandhi. One has to accept the fact that even veterans like Mr Nijalingappa, Mr Kamaraj and Mr Morarji Desai have to team up with her for the party's and perhaps their own survival.

Commitment

Very interesting evidences of the changing pattern of Congress politics are currently noticeable in the capital against this background. At a Press reception this

IT is all back again, the hush-hush talks and secret meetings, the leaks to the Press and exchange of letters on matters which could be talked over in minutes on the telephone or at personal meetings, all together bringing an atmosphere of what may be called 'cold war confrontation' which is a picturesque manifestation of the truth and non-violence of the post-Gandhian era in the Congress. Like Gandhi's ghost, Badshah Khan is today watching the scene in Delhi at close quarters.

The Crux of the whole story is very simple. Mrs Indira Gandhi, whatever she may symbolise in the Congress, for she is many things in it today—the symbol of the past and the herald of the future—wants the quick exit of the old leaders. They have been against her and, she feels besides they are a liability to the party. She wants only those who are willing to obliterate themselves for the emerging leadership, of which she is both the impulse and the expression.

The pace-setters of the Congress since Mahatma Gandhi came into the political scene early in the century have always carried on an exciting but inconclusive debate between the relative merits of ends and means. Different enunciations and demonstrations have been made at different times and Nehru himself made statements which have stood the test not only on the tight rope but the razor's edge, so that, even today, the logic simply is that much may be said on both sides. Nehru's own Government baffled the world indeed with its policies on the Hyderabad action, for instance, or the Goa action or the Tibet settlement. What has been now going on in Delhi is a similar debate on a minor key on Mrs Gandhi's induction of the word "conscience" into Congress politics on a par with the word "consensus" which Mr Kamaraj had used earlier with skill for his own purposes. In both, there was scope for the inquiry whether the right means were being employed and for the right ends.

The Key

The key to a verdict on the present crisis may be an answer to this question, but politics has a logic of its own, and the question today is simply, who wins? The answer is perhaps not difficult. What chance have the old Congressmen who have suffered, first in the sense that they have been de-rated by the election defeats? Some of them have made a come-back after heroic, even if somewhat devious, battles, but it is obvious that their popular image has suffered. Since they have been the image of the Congress, the Congress, too, has suffered. Mrs Gandhi's thesis is that a new image must be created if the Congress is to survive.

That is one reason to justify the exit of the older men. A second one is the logic of power. Whatever be the circumstances which brought her to power, Mrs Gandhi is in power today and, like possession being nine points in the law, Mrs Gandhi today holds the key to the chamber of the loaves and fishes of office, which can be employed both as carrot and stick for Congress men.

There is also a third reason, which must impel the older lead-

ers to step down. This is the guts, and the emancipation from old values, which reinforce the strength of the new leadership. At the last Congress Working Committee meeting, which met to conduct an inquisition on the defectors, including their prime movers, Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Mr Jagjivan Ram and Mrs Indira Gandhi herself, and ended up slurring over this story and absolving the Congress President of the charges against him, the majority was with the Congress President and the old leaders. But they hesitated to try it out, for the stakes were too high. Mrs Gandhi was in a position to get Parliament dissolved, which would mean the end of the Congress. The Congress at the Centre would then be as strong as the Congress in Kerala is today. The older men shuddered and bowed to the inevitable. And for Mrs Gandhi, for all she cared, what was the use of the Congress if it were to be controlled by those who were opposed to her, and who had lost credit with the people? She fought to win or lose. The others were afraid to lose.

Neo-Gandhian Game

It must also be remembered that no techniques are a bar to the new crowd. When the charge (subsequently accepted as baseless by the sponsors) was made that Mr Nijalingappa was consorting with the Jan Sangh and Swatantrites in the Prime Minister's group endless parleys were going on with the Communists. Ethics apparently was of no account in this neo-Gandhian game. Again, the manner in which the groups fought in the Presidential election was also on a similar pattern. There is no use going into details, but no one can doubt that defectors in every State were rallied on inducements and promises striking at the root of party discipline. Bank nationalisation itself came like a secret weapon, a political missile to help the war. The fight was never open, certainly not at the time of the choice of candidate or at the time of filing of his nomination or even after the campaign started. Except for the puerile, it had no relevance to policy. One must also remember that Mr Giri's victory was also not due to a Congress majority vote. The final verdict, however, is that Mrs Gandhi and her supporters won. One may debate on means and ends, but it is futile and irrelevant.

The Change

These are simple reasons why one can safely assume that the knell is sounding for the old team of Congress leaders. It may not be right, it may not augur well for the Congress or the future of the country, but it is there marking the change in the political picture.

Applying these principles to the facts of the case, one can see that the tie-up between Mr Kamaraj, Mr Nijalingappa, Mr Desai and Mr C B Gunda and others, which is the key to the new crisis, is not

THE HINDU
13/10/1969.

Kamaraj Warns Against Communist 'Support'

MADRAS, Oct. 12.
Mr. K. Kamaraj to-day warned the Centre not to depend on the support of the Opposition parties, especially the Right Communists.

Addressing the concluding day session of the two-day meeting of the TNCC at the Teynampet Congress grounds, Mr. Kamaraj said the Right Communists, who claimed to be progressive and were partners in the U.F. Government in Kerala, were to-day trying to topple that Government. Within

three months from now, the party would make a similar bid to topple the United Front Government in West Bengal. The Right Communists, who claimed their U.F. partners were progressive and criticised the Congress for being a "reactionary" backed the Congress under the pretext of supporting bank nationalisation. Bank nationalisation was good indeed; but it was thought of long ago.

Mr. Kamaraj wondered why some Congressmen, described as leftists, were falling victims to the manoeuvres of the Communists. This would, in the long run, weaken the Congress organisation. Nothing should be done to weaken the Congress. If some in the Congress thought they could count on the support of Opposition parties like the Communists, they could as well dissolve the Congress, he said.

MILD RESOLUTION

Mr. Kamaraj reminded the delegates that the purpose of the session was to emphasise the importance of discipline. He knew very well the depth of the feelings of the members when they adopted a rather mild resolution on party discipline. The resolution was not a vigorous one. They may also argue that the resolution as passed was not upto their expectations. However, the credit for drafting a mild resolution went to Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. The mildness should not be construed as weakness. It just indicated their genuine eagerness to save the Congress, built on the sufferings and sacrifice of so many.

The former Congress President said that at the (Central) Working Committee meetings he had fought alone many a time on bank nationalisation. No one should think that this reform was of recent origin. The Working Committee had adopted a ten-point programme, promoting Democratic Socialism. Bank nationalisation should be welcomed; but that was not the end of all progressive policies. There were far more important points to which they should bestow equal attention. He would appeal to the Centre to take up the issues relating to the abolition of privy purses and privileges. While he could understand time being taken to resolve the privy purse issue, there could not be any delay in abolishing the privileges enjoyed by the princes. Undue delay might complicate the issue, he cautioned.

UNITY RESOLUTION

Mr. Kamaraj referred to the Working Committee's unity resolution and said it did not mean that it could be directed against him. The resolution was applicable to all. Could they expect that he (Mr. Kamaraj) should keep quiet if someone went against the very resolution and worked against the organisation or discipline. Making an indirect reference to the Subramaniam episode, without however mentioning any name, Mr. Kamaraj pointed out that the organisation had to face the more important and difficult problems confronting the people. During his recent tour he found great awakening among the masses, who believed that Gandhi's ideals provided a solution to their problems. Congress and Congress organisations should review their economic policies, which were based on Gandhian ideals and formulate a programme of action. He hoped that the new P.C.C. executive under the leadership of Mr. Kakkan in Tamil Nad and the All-India Congress organisation would give the proper lead in this regard.

Referring to the D.M.K., Mr. Kamaraj said he did not consider it (D.M.K.) a political party at all. At the same time, they should not ignore the fact that it was the ruling party in the State to-day. Many people felt that money got for drought relief had not been properly utilised by the D.M.K. Government. He could not say whether that was true. While the people must be prepared to prove their criticism, it was equally the responsibility of the Government to furnish facts and figures to clear the doubts entertained by the people, since the money collected was from the public.

Abolition of Privy Purses Demanded

MADRAS, Oct. 12.
The Tamil Nad Congress Committee to-day called for "immediate abolition of the privileges and privy purses of the ex-rulers as the "next step" in the implementation of the party's 10-point programme.

A resolution adopted by the general body of the TNCC at its second and final day's meeting to-day welcomed the nationalisation of 14 major banks and said that urgent steps should be taken to see that the benefits of bank nationalisation reached the small farmers, workers and small-scale industrialists. Other banking institutions in the country, including foreign banks, should also be taken over, it suggested.

The resolution reiterated that the 10-point programme evolved by the AICC would alone pave the way for establishment of a socialist pattern of society, and asked the Government of India to take steps to implement the remaining items in the programme without delay.

The Committee devoted its entire morning session, lasting three and a half hours, to the resolution. Almost every one of the 18 members, who spoke on it, championed the cause of the poorer sections of the community and urged that the nationalised banks should go all-out to save them from the clutches of "unscrupulous money-lenders."

RESOLUTION ON BANKS

The official resolution, as moved by Mr. R. V. Swaminathan and seconded by Mr. B. Mahadevan Pillai, did not contain any reference to foreign banks and the non-scheduled banks in the country. But an amendment suggesting the take-over of all these institu-

tions also was accepted at the end of the discussion.

Likewise, the original resolution had only wanted immediate suspension of the special privileges of the princes, notwithstanding any delay in reaching an understanding with them in regard to privy purses. However, an amendment was later accepted advocating the abolition of privy purses also.

Mr. Swaminathan, moving the resolution, said the privileges conferred on the ex-rulers were inconsistent with the social objectives which the Congress party had placed before the nation, and hence the abolition of these privileges was an important item included in the 10-point programme.

Mr. E. V. K. Sampath said the continuation of these privileges had given rise to an impression in the public mind that the Congress party was still under the influence of the princes. Another P.C.C. member, Mr. Madanraj, went to the extent of suggesting that the ex-rulers appointed as Ministers should be relieved of their posts within the next six months.

DEADLINE FOR 10-POINT PROGRAMME

Some members felt that the implementation of the 10-point programme, evolved in 1967, was already overdue, and a deadline should be set for its completion. The Prime Minister should be asked to take up the remaining items in the programme and implement them before the next general elections in 1972, they said.

The amendment seeking the take-over of foreign banks and other banking institutions was moved by Mr. A. Ramamurthi of Thanjavur and Mr. K. Ramamurthi of Tindivanam.

Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki said the nationalised banks should offer liberal credit to middle-income groups, like the salaried classes, besides self-employed per-

sons. Mr. K. Arjunan of Kanyakumari district urged that the nationalised banks should help small newspapers also. Mr. K. M. Subramaniam said the Planning Commission should take note of the funds lying with the nationalised banks which could be utilised for priority schemes in the Plan. Mr. K. T. Kosalam said that fixation of a ceiling on urban income was an important economic measure included in the 10-point programme, and hence it should be taken up early.

CRITICISM OF D.M.K. RULE

Some members took the opportunity to raise purely State issues and urged that the general body should adopt a resolution on the political situation in Tamil Nadu. Mr. A. Ramamurthi of Thanjavur said the D.M.K. Government in the State was acting in a "totalitarian way", particularly during the last three months, and urged that the Congress, as the main Opposition party in the State should make a political assessment of D.M.K. rule and expose its "failures". Mr. Arkonam Rajagopal said the D.M.K. was taking credit for several schemes formulated by the Congress party. Congressmen should boldly come forward to launch a struggle against the "acts of injustice" done by the ruling party during the last two and a half years, he said.

The meeting passed another resolution welcoming the visit of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan to this country during the Gandhi Centenary year.

Yesterday the TNCC unanimously elected Mr. P. Kakkan as its new President in the place of Mr. C. Subramaniam who had resigned. At the closed-door discussion that followed bitter attacks on Prime Minister Indira Gandhi are reported to have been made.

Mr. Kakkan's call to partymen
— Page 10

TNCC Calls for Firm Stand on Discipline Issue

MADRAS, Oct. 12.

The Tamil Nad Congress Committee to-day appealed to the Congress Working Committee and the Congress leaders to enforce discipline within the party at all costs without fear or favour, for the healthy growth of the organisation. Mr. P. Kakkan, President, moved the resolution on discipline.

The resolution expressed its deep concern over the defeat of the Congress candidate, Mr. N. Sanjiva Reddi in the Presidential election. While welcoming the unity resolution adopted by the Congress in Delhi on August 25, it called upon the Working Committee and the Congress leaders to take steps to prevent recurrence of the situation that prevailed in the Congress on the eve of the Presidential election in July last.

Smt. Lakshmi Krishnamurthi moved an amendment to the resolution urging the Congress Working Committee and the leaders to enforce discipline within the party at all costs, without fear or favour in the interest and for the healthy growth of the organisation.

On the suggestion of Mr. Kamaraj, the meeting accepted the amendment of Smt. Lakshmi Krishnamurthi and passed the resolution as amended.

Mr. T. S. Arunachalam, who also moved a resolution on the same subject, stating that discipline should be enforced strictly and that only on the basis of discipline, and unity could a proper and healthy growth of the organisation be ensured, and asking the Working Committee to show the right direction in this regard, was withdrawn at the suggestion of Mr. Kamaraj.

Mr. Kamaraj pointed out that the original resolution circulated among the members demanded that the causes that led to the defeat of the Congress candidate in the Presidential election should be gone into and pointed out that the Working Committee's failure to consider this question was a great disappointment to the TNCC. He wanted the resolution to be amended in the interest of the organisation and asked the people to accept Smt. Lakshmi's amendment.

The meeting adopted another resolution expressing its profound

regret that during Gandhiji's birth centenary celebrations, they had forgotten Hindu-Muslim unity stressed by the Father of the Nation. On the contrary, they were witnessing clashes between the two communities in several places in North India. The TNCC appealed to the Central and State Governments to be alert and take firm and speedy steps to remove the fissiparous tendencies that were trying to foment such communal clashes.

The meeting also adopted a number of other resolutions. One of them spotlighted the plight of the handloom weavers and criticised the D.M.K. Government for not redressing their grievances expeditiously. Another resolution drew the attention of the D.M.K. Government to the "suspicion" entertained by the people that the money secured for drought-relief works had not been properly utilised and asked it (the D.M.K. Government) to consider its duty to clear the suspicion.

Mr. Thanjai Ramamurthi and a few others who spoke on the resolution, charged the D.M.K. Government with "misuse" of the money obtained from drought-relief operations.

Mr. S. Chellapandian, who spoke on the resolution on communal harmony, said he doubted whether the Muslim Ministers at the Centre were really loyal to the nation. He regretted that the majority community actually was afraid of the minority and did not condemn when the latter committed mistakes. In the foreign policy pursued by the Centre, there was great confusion.

Mr. Tiruppur Vincent pleaded for banning political parties which preached communalism.

Mr. P. Kakkan, President, in his concluding address hoped that with the confidence reposed in him and with the co-operation of the people, he would try his best to promote the Democratic Socialism policy of the Congress.

Mass Contact: New TNCC Chief's Call to Partymen

MADRAS, Oct. 12.

The Tamil Nadu Congress Committee yesterday formally accepted the resignation of Mr. C. Subramaniam as its President and elected Mr. P. Kakkan, a Vice-President, as its new President.

Mr. Kakkan's name was proposed by Mr. T. S. Arunachalam and seconded by Mr. P. Mahadevan. There was no other nomination and Mr. Kakkan was declared unanimously elected. Mr. Kakkan then walked up to the dais and was garlanded by the Acting President and partymen.

A trusted lieutenant of Mr. K. Kamaraj, Mr. Kakkan, had previously held the office of TNCC President for a term. He had been a Minister in the Kamaraj and Bhaktavatsalam Cabinets.

Mr. P. G. Karuthiruman moved that the new President be authorised to select the members of the Working Committee including Secretaries and other office-bearers. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. R. V. Swaminathan, Acting President, who conducted the election, told the meeting that Mr. Subramaniam's resignation had been received and accepted. He called for nominations for electing a new President.

MEMBERS' DEMAND

Mr. Subramaniam's letter of resignation was not read out at the meeting. Nor was there any discussion on the subject, although Mr. S. C. C. Antony Pillai wanted the issues leading to the resignation of Mr. Subramaniam should be discussed "frankly and fully" before proceeding with the election of a new President. Mr. Swaminathan, however, ruled that the election should be finished first and the discussion could be held later.

Earlier, another member said the rank and file were somewhat bewildered at what was happening and complained that decisions were often taken at the top level, leaving the partymen confused.

Mr. Swaminathan replied that enough time had been allotted to discuss these questions.

Mr. Kakkan told the assembled Congressmen that they had an urgent task of consolidating the party's strength. In achieving this, discipline was of great importance. The Panchayat elections were to be held soon and they should get in touch with the people in the villages and work for the election of the right type of men to these institutions.

On his election as President of the TNCC, Mr. Kakkan said he considered it a great privilege to lead the organisation in Tamil Nadu in the Gandhi Centenary year.

Offering his felicitations to the new President, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari said Mr. Kakkan was known for his selfless service and scrupulous adherence to the Gandhian principles. Making a reference to Mr. Subramaniam, he said he considered everyone in the Congress his friend and he was therefore sorry that he (Mr. Subramaniam) had resigned.

Mr. Krishnamachari said the Congress party had to perform a great task—a yagna—in bringing the party back to power. They must eschew differences and internal squabbles. In fact, the TNCC should set an example to other Pradesh Congress Committees in composing its internal differences and presenting a united front.

The Former Union Minister said the Congress Government had done many good deeds, but it had also omitted to do certain things.

It should have taken more vigorous steps to eradicate poverty. Its "only mistake" was that it did "not commit any mistake", he quipped. In fact, the ruling party in the State (D.M.K.) now thrives on mistakes, he said and added that the people were gradually getting disillusioned with it.

Mr. Krishnamachari said that last two and half years of rule by non-Congress parties in some of the States had proved that democracy would not survive in the country without the Congress. They should do everything to strengthen the party and enable it to take over the reins of office where it had lost in the last elections. Criticising dissipated tendencies, he said those who had left the Congress in the past, had not given a good account of themselves. They had not built up a big party and provided the alternative to the Congress which they had left. Congressmen should therefore realise this fact and give up such tendencies and work for the unity and strength of the party.

The discussion that followed was not open to the Press.

Mr. Subramaniam who sat through the proceedings of the Committee left the meeting after the felicitations to the new President were over. He declined to be drawn into



MR. P. KAKKAN

a discussion with Pressmen. Mr. Subramaniam stayed away from the meeting for the rest of the day.

A strong demand for disciplinary action against the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, for her conduct during the recent Presidential election was the main theme of the six-hour closed door discussion.

Twenty-seven members including District Congress Presidents and members of Parliament from Tamil Nadu participated in the discussion which was wound up by Mr. Kamaraj with an hour-long speech.

Among those who spoke were: Mr. R. T. Parthasarathi, Smt. Akkamma Devi, Mr. T. V. Anandan, Mr. T. Chengalvarayan, Mr. S. C. C. Antony Pillai, Mr. S. Chellapandian, Mr. R. Krishnaswami Naidu, Mr. N. M. Mani Varma and Mr. Nagaraja Monegar.

Although the discussion was held in camera, the speeches made inside the partly-enclosed auditorium could be heard outside and a number of Congressmen were seen standing in groups listening to them. The mike was, however, switched off when Mr. Kamaraj addressed the meeting.

BITTER ATTACKS ON P.M.

Speakers at the closed-door meeting laid emphasis on Mr.

getting the circumstances and the men that placed her in the high office, she seemed to think that she could do any wrong and get away with it. Just because he was responsible for putting her in office, he could not be expected to tolerate all her mistakes, he is understood to have said.

It is learnt that Mr. Kamaraj replied to the Prime Minister's charge that the party leaders were violating the spirit of the unity resolution passed by the Working Committee. He said passing of the resolution did not mean that they should be silent. It was Mrs. Gandhi and her supporters who started criticising the party leaders first. Mr. Kamaraj also criticised Mrs. Gandhi's move to get Mr. Subramaniam retained in the Working Committee. He said Mrs. Gandhi and her supporters were merely fighting a shadow and betrayed childlessness and inexperience.

Mr. Kamaraj is also reported to have made a spirited defence of the choice of the new President of the TNCC. For, some of the members expressed a feeling that they were not fully satisfied with the choice; they wanted a more dynamic and energetic person to lead the party in these difficult days. Mr. Kamaraj said Mr. Kakkan's selfless service and devotion to party work were well-known. He was a great Gandhian and would lead the party in the right direction.

C.M. WELCOMES KAKKAN'S ELECTION

PTI reports from Bangalore: Mr. M. Karunanidhi told Pressmen on his arrival in Bangalore yesterday that he welcomed Mr. Kakkan's election as TNCC President and expressed the hope that he would bring about unity in the State Congress.

Asked whether the split in the State Congress ranks would help the D.M.K., he said he was not depending on the weakness of the Opposition. His party was itself strong and it should become stronger by its own inherent strength. Actually he wanted the Opposition to become strong and united. He hoped Mr. Kakkan would achieve this.

C.M.'S REPLY TO T.T.K.

Our Tiruvannamalai correspondent reports:

Mr. Karunanidhi addressing a huge gathering in Tiruvannamalai today referred to the reported remarks of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari about the "mistakes" of the D.M.K. Government and asked if the issue of patta by the D.M.K. Government to thousands of landless and houseless poor people was mistake, if the promotion of the Tamil language was a mistake or if the cancellation of dry land tax was a mistake. He asked the gathering if the ban on the removal of permits for serving drinks in social clubs was a mistake.

The Chief Minister assured the people that the D.M.K. would abide by the principles set by the late Mr. C. N. Annadurai.

Mr. Karunanidhi also described him as the unquestioned leader of Tamil Nadu. They however, launched a tirade against Mrs. Indira Gandhi. In fact, some of them went to the extent of urging that the TNCC should pass a resolution demanding action against her for indiscipline. They said, even if this led to isolation of the TNCC from the All-India Congress it should brave it in the interest of maintaining discipline. One or two felt that Mr. Kamaraj should have pressed for strong action at the Congress Working Committee meeting. They said the unity resolution of the Working Committee was patchwork and did not help restore order and discipline. But for one or two stray remarks questioning Mr. Subramaniam's conduct in support of Mrs. Gandhi, the outgoing President did not come in for much criticism, it is stated.

Mr. Kamaraj is understood to have traced the power struggle inside the Congress party from the time of Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri's death. He said his hopes that Mrs. Indira Gandhi would shape into a good and able Prime Minister had been belied. For-

THE HINDU
13/10/1969.

Subramaniam to Attend C.W.C. Meeting

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Oct. 12.
The AICC office is learnt to have sent an invitation to Mr. C. Subramaniam for the meeting of the Congress Working Committee on October 30, thereby setting at rest at least for the time being the controversy over his position in the High Command after he ceased to be the TNCC President.

It appears that the Congress President issued instruction to his secretariat to send out the invitation before the TNCC elected a successor to Mr. Subramaniam. This means that Mr. Subramaniam was deemed to be a member when the invitation was sent. He will attend the meeting as a member and not just as an invitee. This does not imply that the issue has been settled.

The Congress President is convinced that under the rules, Mr. Subramaniam could not continue as a member after he ceased to be an ex-officio member of the AICC. He would, however, like this issue to be decided by the Working Committee itself particularly as it has raised a serious controversy in the party.

TRIAL OF STRENGTH

From the posture taken by the Prime Minister and her supporters on one side and the Congress President on the other, one can expect this issue to develop into yet another trial of strength between the Cyndicate and the Prime Minister at the Working Committee meeting. It is not clear yet as to how the Prime Minister and her supporters will justify the continuance of Mr. Subramaniam on the Working Committee particularly when the party rules are clearly against their contention. If their protest letter is any indication, they would oppose action against Mr. Subramaniam on the plea that it may threaten the unity in the party.

The supporters of the Prime Minister have been actively campaigning for overthrowing Mr. Nijalingappa from the presidency and some of them have demanded his resignation. Mr. Nijalingappa is, however, in no mood to oblige them. He has even turned down demands for an early

meeting of the AICC and feels that no meeting could be held before the last week of December.

T. T. K's OFFER

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Meanwhile, the reported offer of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, to mediate has not evoked a favourable response from Mr. Nijalingappa, it is gathered. Mr. Nijalingappa seems to feel that it was not correct to say that he had any differences with the Prime Minister.

Besides the Subramaniam issue, the other subjects on the agenda of the Working Committee are also expected to create considerable heat. The foreign policy is due to come under review and this will provide an occasion for the Prime Minister's critics to take to task her supporters, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Mr. Dinesh Singh for the rebuff at Rabat.

The latest reports from the different ministries on the implementation of the 10-point programme are being circulated to members.

241

THE HINDU
13/10/1969.

T.T.K. Offers to Mediate in Congress Crisis

MADRAS, Oct. 12.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, former Union Finance Minister, has offered to mediate in the dispute between the Prime Minister and the Congress Party bosses.

Mr. Krishnamachari, speaking at the TNCC meeting yesterday, said he had no ulterior motive in making this offer. He was not after any ministership. He offered to help the leaders of both groups compose their differences and pull together only in the larger interests of the party and the country.

Mr. Krishnamachari said Mrs. Gandhi had offered him a ministership some time ago, but he declined the offer. He had been a Minister under Mrs. Gandhi's father (Mr. Nehru) and he did not want to serve as a Minister under Mr. Nehru's daughter also. "It will be like being a Minister under my own daughter," he said.

The former Union Minister said Mr. G. K. Reddy had written in THE HINDU that there was none of stature left to mediate in the Congress crisis now. Mr. Krishnamachari said amidst cheers, "I am prepared to mediate but no one has asked me to do so."

(Mr. G. K. Reddy has said in his report published in THE HINDU on October 11: "Unfortunately, there is nobody now left on the Congress scene who is big enough—and totally uncommitted in the faction fight—to be able to bring the Prime Minister and the party leaders together at least at the personal level and help them smoothen the rough edges of their temperamental differences which play a part in their policy conflicts)."